

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MILAN CITIES CONFERENCE, APRIL 18-20, 1977

REF: MILAN 336

1. SUMMARY: DEPTOFF CALLED ON JOHN H. GUNTHER AND MICHAEL DI NUNZIO OF US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS (USCM) MARCH 21 TO DISCUSS US PARTICIPATION IN FORMER MAYOR ANIASI'S CONFERENCE IN APRIL. GUNTHER INDICATED HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE OR IN PLANNING FOR FUTURE SESSIONS. MOREOVER, GUNTHER HAS ACTIVELY DISCOURAGED INDIVIDUAL US MAYORS FROM TAKING PART ON THEIR OWN. END SUMMARY.

2. GUNTHER PROVIDED A COPY OF A LETTER HE WROTE ON FEBRUARY 16, 1977, TO MAYOR VINCENT CIANCI OF PROVIDENCE, WHO HAD INQUIRED ABOUT THE APRIL CONFERENCE. TEXT OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 063495

LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: A COPY OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE APRIL 18-20, 1977, CONFERENCE OF MAYORS TO BE CONVENED BY THE CENTER FOR COOPERATION AMONG WORLD'S CITIES (CCAWC) HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO ME BY A FRIEND IN EUROPE.

I NOTE THAT THE PROGRAM INDICATES THAT "THE CENTER IS AFFILIATED TO THE UNITED TOWN ORGANIZATION (UTO) AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES" (IULA), AND THAT AS PART OF THE CONFERENCE IN MILAN, OFFICIAL HONOR WILL BE PAID TO MR. JEAN MARIE BRESSAND, THE FOUNDER AND GENERAL DELEGATE OF THE UNITED TOWNS ORGANIZATION. IT SEEMS THERE ARE SOME COMPLICATIONS IN THIS ARRANGEMENT.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, SINCE MR. ALDO ANIASI IS NO LONGER THE MAYOR OF MILAN, THE OFFICIAL STATUS OF THE MEETING IS SOMEWHAT IN DOUBT. SECONDLY, THE IULA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE CENTER FOR COOPERATION AMONG WORLD'S CITIES. IT DID CO-SPONSOR THE MEETING LAST APRIL AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS A PRELIMINARY TO THE HABITAT CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER. THIRDLY, THE UTO HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEEN TRYING TO GAIN THE PARTICIPATION OF US CITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF CITIES WITHIN THIS COUNTRY. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY REJECTED THE UTO BECAUSE OF OUR BELIEF THAT IT HAS A RECORD FAR LEFT OF CENTER AND IS EXTREMELY ACTIVE ON THE LEFT IN WORLD POLITICS. IN FACT IT ENGAGES IN ACTIVITIES WHICH, AT LEAST IN OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT, ARE APPROPRIATELY LEFT TO OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. MORE SIMPLY, THE UTO SEEMS TO BE CONSISTENTLY INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, AND ALWAYS ON THE SIDE OF NON-DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS.

I WANTED TO BRING THIS MATTER TO YOUR ATTENTION, SINCE I AM CERTAIN YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN HONORING MR. BRESSAND. END QUOTE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 063495

3. GUNTHER INDICATED THAT THE ATTITUDE OF USCM TOWARD ANIASI AND THE CCAWC HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AS WELL TO MAYOR RALPH PERK OF CLEVELAND AND MAYOR KEVIN WHITE OF BOSTON.

4. IN EXPLAINING HIS POSITION, GUNTHER MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE USG HELPED FOUND IULA AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR. USCM CONTINUES TO OPERATE THROUGH IULA IN ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AND IS POINTING FOR A IULA MEETING IN HAMBURG IN SEPTEMBER WHERE 150 US MAYORS WILL BE PRESENT.

B. IULA IS NOT RPT NOT, HOWEVER, AN ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION AND IN FACT HAS REPRESENTATIVES FROM EAST BLOC COUNTRIES.

C. IULA'S ASSOCIATION WITH CCAWC AT LAST YEAR'S MEETING CAME ABOUT ONLY AS A RESULT OF THE DIRECT INTERVENTION OF ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE, PROVED

UNSATISFACTORY TO MOST IULA MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THE US

DELEGATION, AND WAS NOT RPT NOT MEANT TO BE PERMANENT.

D. BRESSAND HAS A RECORD OF PUBLIC REMARKS OFFENSIVE TO AMERICANS; ANIASI'S HONORING HIM IS A MINOR BUT FLAGRANT STICKING POINT.

E. CCAWC'S LACK OF "OFFICIAL STATUS" REFERRED TO OBLIQUELY IN ABOVE LETTER MEANS THAT USCM WILL NOT "CERTIFY" EXPENSES OF INDIVIDUAL MAYORS WHO ATTEND APRIL MEETING AS HAVING BEEN INCURRED "IN CONNECTION WITH A LEGITIMATE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE."

5. COMMENT: AS FAR AS USCM IS CONCERNED, ANIASI IS CLEARLY INVOLVED WITH THE WRONG CROWD. GUNTHER AND DI NUNZIO ARE PERSONALLY SKEPTICAL OF CCAWC'S CREDENTIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 063495

AND SERIOUSNESS (THEY REFERRED TO ANIASI'S "SHOE-STRING" OPERATION). FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE MIFFED BY THE WAY ANIASI BYPASSED THEM IN ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE THIS YEAR'S MEETING. NOT WISHING TO APPEAR TOTALLY NEGATIVE, HOWEVER, DI NUNZIO MADE CLEAR HIS OWN INTEREST IN CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ITALY AND HIS WILLINGNESS IN THE FUTURE TO WORK WITH ANIASI PROVIDED CCAWC DEVELOPS INTO A RECOGNIZED SPOKESMAN FOR ITALIAN MAYORS. HE PROVIDED DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS ON THE USCM ;MAYORS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE", WHICH HE RUNS, AND VARIOUS BROCHURES ON US CITY FINANCES WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL IN RESPONDING TO REQUEST PARA 8 REFTEL (POUCHED TO POST). BUT THAT IS AS FAR AS USCM WILL GO IN HELPING ANIASI.

6. DEPT HAS CONTACTED PECKMAN AT BROOKINGS AND SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO DETERMINE WHETHER A RECENT SHORT PAPER ON FINANCING OF CITT'S MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE AT ANIASI'S MEETING. IN VIEW OF THE PROBABILITY US MAYORS WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED, DO YOU BELIEVE ANIASI IS STILL INTERESTED IN THIS PART OF HIS REQUEST?
VANCE

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